

FEINSTEIN FOR SENATE

Issue 3 – September 2006

The Greatest Environmental Threat

Senator Feinstein believes that global warming is the most serious environmental threat facing the planet today. We know that there is now a scientific consensus that global warming is happening and we can't stop it, that's why Senator Feinstein believes we must do all in our power to restrict it. If further temperature increases are kept to one to two degrees Fahrenheit, it is manageable. But if warming increases to five to nine degrees or even more, the effects on our planet will be catastrophic.

"We must begin to take certain steps now by ending our addiction to fossil fuels," said Senator Feinstein at an address before the Commonwealth Club of California. "Because it is the burning of these fuels – coal, oil, gasoline and natural gas and the resultant greenhouse gas emissions – that is the primary cause of global warming."

Carbon dioxide, the most plentiful of the manmade greenhouse gases, is produced by power plants, cars, manufacturing, and by residential and commercial building components. And the true problem is that carbon dioxide doesn't dissipate quickly. It stays in the atmosphere for five decades or more – causing the Earth's temperature to rise.



Raising fuel economy standards will save drivers money at the gas pumps.

The first bill would improve the fuel economy standards on cars, trucks and SUVs. This legislation would raise the average fuel economy standards for all vehicles, including SUVs and sedans, from 25 miles per gallon to 35 mpg by model year 2017. If passed, this bill would save 2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2025, the same amount of oil we currently import from the Persian Gulf, and 420 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2025, the equivalent of taking 90 million cars (or 75 million cars and light trucks) off the road in one year.

The second bill would create a sound mandatory cap and trade program, which could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent or more by 2025. "Today, coal-fired power plants in 38 states are the largest source of carbon dioxide in America," said Senator Feinstein.

Coal, alone, produces about 30 percent of annual carbon-dioxide emissions, or 2.1 billion tons every year. Globally, coal produces 9.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year – or one-third of all global greenhouse gas emissions. It's absolutely critical that we find ways to clean up coal or find alternatives.

A cap on the amount of critical global warming gases – including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous



Burned fossil fuels released into our atmosphere are threatening our environment and our health.

And America emits some 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gases, though we only have four percent of its population. This makes the U.S. the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. Yet today, the federal government is doing nothing to stop global warming.

For this reason, Senator Feinstein is working on three distinct global warming bills that she plans to introduce on the first day of the new Congress in January. These bills would require carmakers to improve mileage, would coax power producers to meet emission standards, and extend California-style green-technology programs nationwide.



Senator Feinstein has called for the ending of our addiction to fossil fuels.

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Protecting Our Coastlines



If the Pombo bill becomes law, unsightly oil rigs like this can become a common view.

In 1981, Congress passed a measure to protect the Pacific and Atlantic coasts from offshore drilling. And each year, for the past 25 years, Congress has voted to renew that bill. Former Presidents Bush and Clinton both created additional moratoriums to prohibit leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf, and President George W. Bush has said he would not reverse the executive order. But today, these federal protections are in jeopardy.

In June, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed a bill that would lift the current federal moratoria that protect the Atlantic and Pacific outer continental shelf (OCS) from oil and gas drilling. This would permit unreliable and unsightly oil rigs to be as close as three miles to our beaches.

The bill, sponsored by California Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA 11th), would permanently eliminate the federal moratorium for areas 100 miles or more offshore. Areas between 50 and 100 miles offshore would also have the moratorium lifted unless the State Legislature votes to ban drilling. And, even then, the ban would have to be renewed every five years. Areas between three and 50 miles from the coastline would be protected. However, the State Legislature could choose to opt-out of the moratorium in order to secure significant new financial incentives from the oil industry for drilling. The bill also waives environmental protections and allows slant drilling for National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries located off our coasts.

So far, Senators Feinstein and Boxer have managed to delay a conference on procedural grounds; however, when Congress returns in September, both Senators may face a difficult battle. The two California Senators believe the Senate should only agree to a conference if the House takes the Pombo bill off the table.

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Keeping Tips In Your Pockets

Senator Feinstein recently announced her opposition to the Republican sponsored legislation aiming to make a major pay cut for minimum wage workers who receive tips as part of their income. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives in late July, but failed to pass in the Senate in early August.

Senator Feinstein believes that American workers deserve a raise, not a cut in their salaries. The federal minimum wage today is \$5.15 an hour, and someone who works at this rate 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year takes home less than \$11,000 a year, which falls far below the poverty line for families. For this reason, Senator Feinstein has been a long time supporter of substantially boosting the minimum wage.

If this bill had passed the Senate, wages of thousands of employees in California would be cut by \$4.62 an hour -- from a minimum of \$6.75 an hour plus tips to the federal minimum of \$2.13 an hour plus tips. This translates into a cut of \$184.80 a week (assuming 40 hours) and \$9,609 a year (assuming 52 weeks).

"The Republican bill would take money out the pockets of workers struggling to get by," said Senator Feinstein. "Seven states bear the brunt of this legislation. Everything that has been achieved in seven states to support low wage workers who earn tips is destroyed by this bill."

Currently, seven states and one territory have state minimum wages above the federal minimum wage; including California, Alaska, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Guam. However, the Republican bill would preempt laws in these jurisdictions and lower the minimum wage for tipped employees to the federal level of \$2.13 an hour.

"This is unacceptable," said Senator Feinstein. "In California alone, there are roughly 650,000 restaurant employees who rely on tips to survive. American workers are working harder than ever. They deserve more for their efforts, not less. This bill would slash the salaries of thousands of workers. I strongly oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same."



According to the California Restaurant Association, six percent of Californians work in the restaurant industry; just one field that would be affected by this bill.

Offshore Oil Drilling

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A healthy coastline is vital to California's economy and our quality of life. Our State's ocean-dependent industries are estimated to generate \$17 billion of revenue each year. We cannot afford to have an environmental catastrophe on the scale of the 1969 Union Oil Company blowout, only six miles from the coast of Santa Barbara. Over an 11-day period, 200,000 gallons of crude oil spread into an 800 sq. mile slick.

"Incoming tides brought the thick tar to beaches, marring 40 miles of coastline," said Senator Feinstein at a news conference in Santa Monica with leaders of the Environment Defense Center, Environment Now, Heal the Bay, Natural Resource Defense Council & Santa Monica Baykeeper. "Corpses of dead seals and dolphins, poisoned by the oil, washed up on the shore and more than 3,600 shorebirds were killed by the oil or the detergents used to clean the oil up."

Additionally, beaches were closed to swimming for more than 3 months. This was a seminal event for the environmental movement and the following spring marked the first Earth Day.

This is why we need a permanent moratorium. For this reason, Senators Feinstein and Boxer have introduced the California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act, to permanently protect California from oil and gas drilling. The bill was introduced by Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA 23rd) in the House.

With the Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, and President Bush in the White House, it is unlikely that this bill will become law this year. However, California's coast must be protected from offshore drilling and both Senators will continue their battle until a permanent ban on offshore oil drilling is enacted. Senator Feinstein urges all Californians to join this fight – and let Congress know we are united in opposition to offshore drilling.



Senator Feinstein announces her opposition the Pombo bill on offshore oil drilling.

Global Warming

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oxide – would be established on all major emitters. Gradually, these caps would be tightened, until the desired level is reached.

Coal plants would have two ways to meet the cap: either implement new technologies, or purchase credits from other companies that have reduced their emissions below the target cap. (A credit essentially is an allowance to emit a ton of greenhouse gases.)

One of the key elements of Senator Feinstein's program is that it would allow farmers and foresters to participate and earn credits for emission reductions through green practices. Credits could be earned by tilling land less frequently, planting trees on vacant land and converting crops to those that can be used for bio-fuels.

The last piece of global warming legislation Senator Feinstein plans to introduce in January would be a national energy efficiency program -- modeled after what California has achieved. This includes strict appliance and building standards and requiring utilities to use energy efficiency measures to meet a portion of their demand.

In California, energy use per person has not gone up in the past 20 years, while national energy use has skyrocketed by 50 percent. To be specific, Californians use 6,000 kilowatt-hours a year per person, while the national average is 12,000 kilowatt-hours.

Last September, the State announced a \$2 billion energy efficiency and conservation program to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 3.8 million tons by 2008. That is the equivalent of reducing California's electricity emissions by 3.5%, or taking 650,000 cars off the road. California's program can and should be replicated on a national level.

"The introduction of these three pieces of legislation is essential to halting the effects of global warming," said Senator Feinstein. "Inaction on the part of the American government would only further exacerbate the problem and harm every person on this planet."



Money Isn't All You're Saving

Products with an Energy Star use less energy, which means less pollution smaller energy bills.

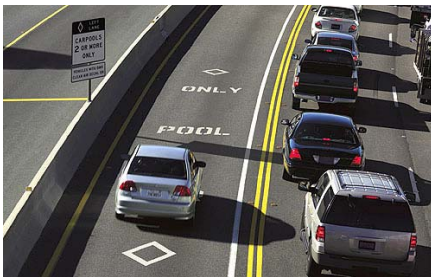
What You Can Do

In an effort to reduce the effects of global warming, here are some personal tips from Senator Feinstein on how you can reduce your energy consumption and the cost of your energy bill.



Run your dishwasher only with a full load. This avoids 200 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted per household per year, or 1.2 million tons for all of California.

Keep your tires properly inflated. This avoids 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted per household per year, or 1.5 million tons for all of California.



Carpool 2 days a week. This avoids 1,590 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted per household per year, or 9.2 million metric tons for all of California.

Turn your air conditioner thermostat up a single degree. This avoids 220 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted per household per year, or 1.3 million tons for all of California.



Wash four out of five loads of laundry in cold water. This avoids 460 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted per household per year, or 2.7 million tons for all of California.

Turn down your hot water heater by 10 degrees. This would save 660 pounds of carbon dioxide per household from being emitted into the air. If every household were to do it, California alone would avoid emitting 3.8 million tons of carbon dioxide.



Purchase energy-efficient light bulbs. A 30-watt compact fluorescent bulb is equivalent to a 100-watt light bulb and will reduce more than 1,300 pounds of carbon dioxide over the life of the bulb.